



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Environmental Protection: Mississippi River, Pool 8 Islands Phase I, Wis.



Grassy, Boomerang, and Horseshoe Islands in pool 8, Wisconsin.

Contact

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Location/Description

Part of the Corps' Environmental Management Program (EMP), the site is an open, lake-like reach of pool 8 on the right descending bank of the Mississippi River channel in Wisconsin, just downstream of Brownsville, Minnesota. The site lies within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Many of the islands in pool 8 have eroded or disappeared. This has increased wind fetch and associated turbidity in the backwater areas, resulting in an observed loss of valuable aquatic plant beds that migrating canvasback ducks use for food.

The project restored and constructed three islands totaling 13,000 feet long to reduce wave action in the backwater area. The islands were constructed with material dredged from the backwaters, the navigation channel, and a channel maintenance placement site. Topsoil was obtained by dredging deepwater fish habitat within the project area and at Wildcat Creek. The islands were protected with riprap, rock groins, or willows, and seeded to prevent erosion. The islands will maintain existing valuable habitat and provide conditions necessary for the re-establishment of aquatic plant beds in 1000 acres of backwater habitat.

This project is the first of five proposed phases of island construction in lower pool 8.

Status

Construction of the islands was initiated in 1989 and was completed in October 1992. The project was transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for operation and maintenance in 1994.

Authority

The Pool 8 Islands Phase I Habitat Project was planned under the authority of the Upper Mississippi River System - Environmental Management Program (EMP) and constructed in accordance with a Definite Project Report dated June 1989. The EMP was authorized by Section 1103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, and reauthorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1999.

The project was planned and designed as part of a cooperative effort between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Wisconsin and Minnesota Departments of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and local interests.

Fiscal

Project design and construction costs were 100 percent Federal because the project is located on national wildlife refuge lands. Operation and maintenance costs are 100 percent Federal (a responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Federal Cost	\$2,314,000
Non-Federal Cost	\$0
Total Cost	\$2,314,000